

## **Report to the Community:**

### **Marlboro Free Library Board of Trustees Presidents Report, 2022**

The Marlboro Free Library staff and trustees are happy to report that the Library's services continued to be enjoyed by our community. Balancing safety with the needs of the community continues as a focus, but we also are keeping a hopeful eye on the future and plans to improve your Library.

The Library saw an increase in the use of many services. The wireless sessions were up over 508% from the previous year! Summer reading participation increased by 95%, over 8,600 ebooks and audiobooks were downloaded, a 9% increase, and the Library's ebook collection expanded by 76! Other Library services were also widely used by the community, such as the take and make craft kits for adults and children (over 800 were assembled), 1,336 user sessions on our Discover Marlboro app, almost 70,000 website visits, and almost 2,500 folks attended 219 in-person and virtual Library programs.

The Library was awarded a \$3000 grant from the American Library Association's *Libraries Transforming Communities* program, and has developed a podcast series, available on the Library's Discover Marlboro app. This podcast, *The Story of Marlborough: The Past, Present, and Future*, shares the individual stories of the businesses that participated in this project, such as Hepworth Farms, Glorie Winery, and Raspberry Field Farms. Other grants received included a \$10,000 grant to expand STEAM programming for children from Assembly member Jonathan Jacobson, a \$500 Stewarts grant for summer reading, and a \$750 Mid-Hudson Library System Outreach Mini Grant to work with the Hudson Valley Branch of the Alzheimer's Association.

This year the Library has developed collaborations beyond those with local businesses for the podcast and the grant to work with the local branch of the Alzheimer's Association. In partnership with the Ulster County Library Association, the Library bring arranged for a wide variety of virtual programming, including business workshops, local authors, and county resources. The Library also continued its strong collaboration with the school district, working to further enhance the importance of early literacy, while promoting Library resources to all students.

Programming remains a very popular part of the Library's services, with a variety of designed to appeal to children, young adults, and adults. Some of these programs the Library provided included Dark Side of Marlboro Walking Tour, Tower of Victory Tour at Washington's Headquarters, Marlboro Maker's Club, the annual Shredder Truck visit, and much more. Don't forget to checkout all the programming on the Library's website.

Our Library will continue as a destination for our community, a place where all the people of Marlborough can come (in person or virtually) to attend a program, find information or entertainment with a book or DVD, or to use technology. Our Library is more than just a building, and with our hopes and plans for future improvements that should continue.

Many thanks to all who ensure our Library is the welcoming and vibrant gathering place it is—the staff, the Friends, the community, and the Board.